

Message Text

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67

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01

MC-02 ACDA-19 /114 W

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R 020825Z JAN 74 ZDK

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2251

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

CNO WASHDC

CSAF WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU

CINCPACREP CANBERRA

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, AS US

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN NEWSP*PERS EXPR SS SUPPORT

FOR DEF MIN BARNARD ON HIS DEPARTURE

FOR WASHINGTON

REF: CANBERRA 6911

1. SUMMARY: ALL MAJOR AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPERS CARRIED
EITHER NEWS STORIES OR EDITORIALS JANUARY 2 SUPPORTING
DEFENSE MINISTER BARNARD ON HIS DEPARTURE FOR WASHINGTON.

2. STORIES AND EDITORIALS ARE REALISTIC AND SEEM*TO
ACCEPT GOA POSITIONS AS REASONABLE.

STORIES SEEM TO HAVE BEEN INSPIRED BY PRESS
BACKGROUNDERS OR SIM*LAR RELEASE OF INFORMATION TO THE
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PRESS BY COGNIZANT AUSTRALIAN OFFICIALS ALTHOUGH NO ATTRIBUTION

IS GIVEN. END SUMMARY

3. MAJOR POINTS MADE IN NEWSPAPERS ARE:

A. THAT GOA DOES NOT EXPECT AND CANNOT RECEIVE CONTROL OVER US MESSAGE TRAFFIC THROUGH NWC STATION. MELBOURNE HERALD HOWEVER, EDITORIALIZES THAT GOA SHOULD REACH ACCOMMODATION WITH USG THAT IT WILL BE INFORMED ABOUT PROPOSED USG ACTIONS LIKELY TO INVOLVE MESSAGES THROUGH STATION.

B. INCREASED AUSTRALIAN STAFFING AT NWC STATION WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR AUSTRALIANS TO BE CURRENTLY INFORMED ABOUT INTRODUCTION OR REMOVAL US EQUIPMENT AT STATION. (ONE SOURCE STATES GOA WAS NOT INFORMED IN ADVANCE OF RECENT REMOVAL OF SATELLITE TERMINAL EQUIPMENT. THIS IS IN ERROR SINCE GOA WAS INFORMED AT LEAST ONE WEEK BEFORE EQUIPMENT WAS REMOVED. THERE HAS BEEN NO SIMILAR CHARGE IN AUSTRALIAN MEDIA ABOUT REMOVAL OF SATELLITE EQUIPMENT.)

C. MOST STORIES GAVE EQUAL EMPHASIS TO BARNARD'S TASK OF REOPENING POSSIBILITY OF \$30 MILLION REFUND ON PURCHASE OF F-111 AIRCRAFT. ALL REPORTS NOTE THAT BARNARD EXPECTS TO RAISE POSSIBLE REFUND IN CONTEXT OF AUSTRALIA'S INTENTION TO PROCURE NEW DEFENSE EQUIPMENT WITHIN FORESEEABLE FUTURE, REPORTS ALSO INDICATE THAT USM -60 TANK AND DESIGN FOR PATROL FRIGATE APPEAR TO HAVE INSIDE PLACE IN GOA THINKING AT THIS TIME. ONE REPORTER SPECULATES WITH NEW DEFENSE ORDERS IN THE OFFING BARNARD IS IN STRONG POSITION TO ACHIEVE SOME AMOUNT OF REBATE ON F-111 PURCHASE ALTHOUGH NOT IN THE FULL AMOUNT OF \$30 MILLION.

D. MENTION OF JOINT DEFENSE SPACE FACILITIES IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MADE IN AT LEAST ONE ARTICLE IN WHICH IT IS STATED THAT THESE STATIONS HAVE PURELY DEFENSE ROLE HAS REMOVED THEM AS SUBJECTS OF CONJECTURE WITHIN AUSTRALIAN LABORPARTY AND AUSTRALIAN VOTING PUBLIC.

E. SEVERAL ARTICLES HAVE NEO-NATIONALISTIC TONE WHICH HAS CHARACTERIZED PRESS REPORTING OF

AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN POLICY ACTIVITIES IN PAST
SEVERL MONTHS. THIS PARTICULAR TONE ASSUMES
GOA ACTING IN AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL INTERESTS
AT PRESENT TIME AS OPPOSED TO FORMER SUBSERVIENCE
TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS, E.G. , US AND HMG.
NONETHELESS, ARTICLES IN GENERAL REFLET
REASONABLE APPROACH TO THE PROBLEMS WHICH
BARNARD IS FACING IN ACCOMMODATING AUSTRALIAN
INTERESTS TO THOSE OF THE US*IN FOR COMING
NWC STATION NEGOTIATIONS.
HARROP

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY AIRCRAFT, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, MILITARY EQUIPMENT, MINISTERIAL VISITS, MILITARY VISITS, MILITARY BASES, MILITARY BASE AGREEMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS, MILITARY SALES, SATELLITES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974CANBER00023
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740167/aaaackzp.tel
Line Count: 126
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: CANBERRA 6911
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUL 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <08 JUL 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AUSTRALIAN NEWSP*PERS EXPR SS SUPPORT FOR DEF MIN BARNARD ON HIS DEPARTURE
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, AS, US, (BARNARD, LANCE H)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005